Leicester, Mass.
July 30, 1867.

My dear Friend Webb,

Day before yesterday Mr. May received yours of July 11th – via Phila. – and it has given us all great pleasure to hear from you, & to know that you have enjoyed your meeting with Garrison and his children, & that you attended (which we knew before from London papers sent us) the London "Breakfast", a meeting which I w. rather have been at, I think, than any other I can now conjecture as possible on earth. I honestly think that Garrison has earned & deserves this crown placed on his long-reviled & hated head by such unprejudiced and disinterested and dispassionate hands as John Bright's, and Earl Russell's & the Duke of Argyle's, &c. I am glad that men of their rank (that of the last two I mean) have done this, – not that I think it, in itself, any more desirable or valuable on that account; but, taking human standards of opinion & judgment as they are, I rejoice that this signal example is given, in such manner that the whole world must see it, of the homage of the world's most distinguished, as well as its really best and first like Bright and Mill, &c., to such a life as Garrison's has been. It will have a vast power for good – it will nerve all lovers of right & all workers for it to fresh efforts, and it will mortify & discourage the workers of evil proportionately. I know of few things which more strikingly prove the world's advance in real civilization, than that Garrison has lived through 30 years of such opposition & enmity as he (necessarily) called forth, has come to see the fear, the dread, the scorn, the hatred, of our whole country give way & melt away before the power of light, has lived to see justice done to himself and to

2/ the great cause he inaugurated, & to receive, at the hands of such men as Bright & Mill, & the others I have named, the tribute of respect & honor which belongs to him. I would like to see some magnanimity & honour on the part of the Clergy & Ministers of England. In a letter I had not long since from Mr. Chamerovzow he said there had been a very great change of opinion, &c. &c. in regard to Mr. Garrison among those who have heretofore been the bitterest against him, & he spoke of some of the religious leaders as having thus changed. If so, they owe it to truth even more than to Garrison to make a clean breast of it, even though their confession may have to be humiliating to themselves. Not really so, however. No man is really lowered by doing an act of justice to an old opponent; and, if he was really honest in his former opposition, he will the more desire, when he sees that justice requires it, to put himself right before the world. I have had a good many papers sent to me (one by yourself in London) containing editorial notices of Mr. Garrison, & reports of meetings in his behalf, – the London News, Star, Telegraph, Times, the papers of Manchester & Newcastle, – but as yet I have seen and heard of no "religious" paper, which has spoken a cordial & strong word in his behalf. – I am very glad that you are so pleased with Garrison's children. All 5 of them do the highest credit to himself and his wife. And I rejoice most heartily that there is now a good prospect that you will "come over" and see us all – them, & the other friends, who will so heartily rejoice to see you, & be so glad to testify to you, face to face, of the grateful & respectful feeling they cherish for your early, your steady, your resolute, your unfaltering, your clear-sighted, your most valuable friendship to the American Abolitionists, & ~~your~~ support of their principles, during the whole time of their warfare against Slavery and its hosts. "Mighty through God" has the truth been, in the hearts & hands of an apparently feeble & insignificant

company, "to the pulling down of Strong-holds" of iniquity. What an honor & satisfaction it has been, & is, to have been counted in among that company, in the days when no worldly applause came, or seemed ever possible (in our day.) And now the great temple of Justice, Freedom & Righteousness is rising so steadily & majestically in our land! It is wonderful to see;— to none more wonderful than to the abolitionists. For tho' we knew (or thought we knew) and often predicted what good things would follow (instead of evil) the doing of justice & the breaking of the yoke, yet we never ourselves realized how grand or how immediate those results would be, and we daily have to confess that "the half was not" imagined, and we begin to see the actual time when these grand results, these fruits and blessings of obedience to God's law, shall be so abundant that there will scarcely be room to receive & contain them. I wish every eye was as open & purged to see these things, as is the case with all the truly intelligent & candid of the land, whatever their former attitude may have been. — Now I hope we shan't be disappointed in your coming. My wife & daughter regret that you are likely to begin with one of our New England winters, and I somewhat fear myself that it will seem very tedious to you. I am not afraid that we cannot keep you warm. We want to see you here, — yet not at the risk of your comfort. Sea-sickness is an evil, — at the time; — yet often proves an excellent remedy, a most wholesome regulator. 'Twas so with me. I suspect it is in Garrison's case. With some its prostrating effect is so great as to, apparently, defeat all others. But your passage, from land to land, would not probably exceed a week. Embarking at Queenstown, you might disembark at Halifax, if the sea were too bad for longer endurance, & so get along to Boston by easy land-stages. I presume however your choice wd be to start fair at Liv'pool, & hold on to Boston harbor.

4) Now a little business, lest I be interrupted before I ge
at it. (1.) Some time ago S. J. May sent me $6.50
the Garrison "Testimonial" Fund, which he said Wendel
Phillips had sent him, from you. I doubt there is sa
not quite right in this statement. I had already receive
your contribution, - Five Pounds. What means this additio
Pound", I said to myself. I have concluded it was t
gift of some other person, whose name may have dropp
out in the circuitous transit. Let me know, please, a
as you can, the fact about it. [Have James Haughton
Mrs. Palmer, & other early & old friends, ever had the though
participating in this tribute to Garrison? It is not the p
or business of our Committee to ask anybody, out of our o
country. But it has been a most instructive fact, as wel
a most acceptable aid, that numbers have come forw
in Gr. Britn. & Ireland to join us. And I cannot help wis
though I can do nothing in the case, that the example of E
Nichol, yourself, Miss Esther, &c, as well as of the Buxtons,
Bright, Mill, Forster, &c. might prevail, to add enough to
"Testimonial" fund at least ~~outright~~ to cover the pecuniar
cost of his journey. I daresay this will occur to a few
individuals. Should such a man as John Mauss or of Newca
suggest, in each considerable place, a participation in t
substantial testimonial to Garrison, it would be very ea
to obtain all I have suggested; and so we could repla
that which has been drawn from the fund, and, what is
better, make the "Testimony" less exclusively American.]

(2.) I received about a week since from you, thro' J. M. McKe
the sum of $17.28, which I apply in accordance with your note t
Mrs. May. I send you on another paper a little statement of
money matters between us. It is a pleasant reminder of the d
antislavery times, to have these or any little commissions to exe
for you, & to be sending you occasionally an account. If t
is the room (within the weight) I shall enclose to you the receipted bi
of "the Nation" - for $6.04 (not 6.50, now) $5. the price, & 2 cts. postag
each of 52 numbers. [~~continued on next paper Nov. 9, where the "account"~~

Sam'l May Jr. in acct. with R. D. Webb.

Paid for Ch'l Lamb's "Miscellanies" $1.80 Postage 12	–	$1.92
Paid for W. B. Jacob's "The Nation" $8. Cost of Money Order, 10¢ Postage 9		8.19
Paid " R. D. W.'s "The Nation" – 1 year, to Feb. 13, 1868, $5. Ocean Postage on same 1.04		6.04
Paid sundry postages on correspondence, ~~with~~ for above,		.09
July 25/67. Rec'd of R. D. Webb $17.28		$16.24
Bal'ce in S. M. Jr's hands		1.04
		$17.28

I think I never have sent you a regular acct. of our last Antislavery money matters. The account stands exactly square. Mar. 30. 1865, I rec'd. of you a Bill for £15. 5. 3, wh. I sold at $7.43 to the £ stg., getting $113.41, and this was paid,

To Liberator, for Misses Estlin, Lupton, & Whitelegge and Mrs. Taylors		26.93
" Standard, for M. Shackleton, M. A. Estlin, M. Fletcher, W. Armistead, R. Allen, W. E. Forster, Mrs. Edmundson, Misses Whitelegge, Ireland, Paton, & Walton, Mrs. Biggs, Mrs. Smith, H. Thorpe,		83.41
" Aud'r A. S. Soc'y – Mrs Walton's donation	7.43	
Less charged by you, for expenses,	4.36	3.07
		$113.41

May 27. 1865, I rec'd. of you a Bill for £4. 7. 6, which I sold at $6.67 to the pound, getting $29.18. This all went to Liberator, as follows:

Joseph Cowan Jr (2 yrs) $9.73 – J. Hindhaugh, do, $9.73. John Mawson, do, $9.72		$29.18

Our acct. for sale of Life of John Brown is still an open one. I am by degrees disposing of the remaining copies. A. M. Powell has recently taken 10 copies more to dispose of. – S. J. May took 2 copies, for libraries, &c, last week.

(Letter continued)

The time fails me to add much more. I am very glad that business need not be a reason for your staying at home. I am sure Alfred (to whom I desire my truest regards) will keep a wise & vigilant eye to it in your absence. Other apparent obstacles I hope may all yield. And if Garrison proves poor company & no help to you at sea, I reckon (to use a Southern phrase) that Fanny and Frank will both be able to minister to you. – I shall (over)

ope for a letter from you, soon, in reply to this — and to tell me
ore fully of your plans about coming to America. I think October
ill be an excellent time to cross over. We all send love
you, and all my family rejoice in the prospect of your coming.
Mr. May, just now, is not at all well; but will be better soon,
e hope. We are having a visit (i.e. in Mass.tts) from my cousin
J. May. He has not been here before for nearly 2 years; & soon we
hect him at our house. — I wish you might see last week's (July 25)
"Independent", for its notice of Garrison & of his whole career, as well
of his reception in England. Do you ever see the New York
Liberal Christian"? It is a very good & creditable journal indeed.

Affectionately Yours Saml. May jr

July 31. Instead of sending this off yesterday, as intended,
go by Steamship of today, I detained it to add a few lines.
I cannot remember if I have told you before that Mr. C. F.
Wright wrote to me to say he was expecting a parcel of books from
e, to be sent to you, — wh. he wd. gladly forward, or any others I might
reafter have. The said parcel was to come from some friend of yours in
ston, & I was supposed to know all about it. But I had heard of no such
rcel, nor have I since. I sh'd. gladly, at any time, aid in forwarding to
u anything; and I hope you will never say again — what really grieved
e — that "you were ashamed to ask me to re-envelope & forward some
ters from you". Why? I think it very honorable to me to be called upon
you, or to have any commissions to do for you. — I have unfortunately
islaid Mr. Wright's letter, giving me his address in N.Y. I can't doubt it
ll "turn up", for I can almost say I never lose a letter, & I c'd. not have destroyed
r. Your Taunton friend, I hope, sent direct to Mr. W., as you expected, the
adow portrait. Might not yr. Boston friend ("Irish friend in B.") have done the
me thing with the Greeley on the Wall?

In a late letter you asked, for Alfred as well as yourself, "Who our
cle regard as the greatest man living, not in power, not in talent, but in the
ral greatness of his achievements?" "also, the greatest woman?" — I have
ver debated the point with any one, in or out of "our circle". I think that
erican Abolitionists generally, as well as many highly intelligent people not exactly to be do
koned (yet constant well-wishers to anti-slavery), give that first place, among Americans, to William Lloyd Garrison; — not for talent
for learning, not for eloquence, but for those very moral elements to wh. you refer me. For faith
God, in the truth, in justice, &c. for quick, intelligent, sympathy (without any morbidness or cant)
Suffering men — for clear & correct perception of Right & Wrong, for Courage to make war
n the Wrong & to rebuke it, fearlessly, unsparingly, calmly, — to rebuke the right one, i.e.
Wealthy, influential, the educated, the leaders of Church & State — to keep himself firm, calm, true,
awful, cheerful, patient, & never despairing or doubtful of the result; — to do this steadily &
vantly for 35 years; & then to see the absolute triumph of his Cause, the general consent
ll the intelligent & good of 2 continents to his own wisdom & faithful service, without conceit
thout affectation on either side, without setting up the slightest personal claim, — these things
ay, constitute in my judgment moral greatness, to an extent I see no where else in this age, in America or elsewhere.

As to the "greatest woman", I should be slow to say, for I am not equally clear in my mind. So far as America is concerned, I think that Lucretia Mott, Lydia Maria Child, Maria Weston Chapman, & Abby Kelley, have each very strong claims to the high moral position. Considering all her sacrifices, her wonderful individuality & consistency, & her absolutely perfect fidelity to her principles, amounting almost to self-crucifixion, I incline to put Mrs. Child first.

If we include talent, learning, real wisdom, eloquence, all in combination with high moral excellence & courage, & perception of duty, & fearlessness for the right, I think John Bright stands very nearly first among living men.

I do not know Mr. Alfd. M. Williams of Taunton. — If I may judge of Henry Vincent's influence from the two lectures I heard, I think his visit to this country a most fortunate one for a good understanding between the 2 countries. His description of the way in which the news of Mr. Lincoln's murder fell upon the hearts of the great body of Englishmen, — the great middling & working classes, — was one of the most eloquent, affecting, moving things I ever heard. —

— A good while ago, a Newfork gentlemanly man introduced himself to me (in Newfork) as "Alexander Wilder, attached to the corps of the "Evening Post" newspaper" (Wm. C. Bryant's), and told me, (in reference to the statement on that point in your Life of Capt. J. Brown) that "Cook's body was buried at Williamsburg, (on Long Island, very near Newfork), and not in Indiana", — as stated in your book.

Boston, August 1st. I have found, as I thot. I sh^d, Mr. Wingate's letter to me (of May 13. last). He said he had just rec^d. a letter from you, wherein you said that I had forwarded a package of books for you, to his brother, Geo. W. Wingate's care, and you desired him to let me know if it had been received. Of course he had not rec^d. such, as I had sent none such; — nor could I then, nor can I now, tell to what package of books you referred. Has any letter from you to me been lost? (Explained on your soon.)

— I have read to my Cousin, Saml. J. May, my answer to your & Alfred's inquiry. He approves it wholly, as to Garrison, — while he thinks that George Thompson's early self-devotion & constant faithfulness to the cause of Freedom, his multitudinous labors, his many sacrifices, made so unostentatiously, and his high faith, entitle him to an exalted place among the best. He thinks of American women, that Mrs. Mott & Mrs. Child have the highest claims on the ground you name. — He desires his best regards to you, and is sorry he is not a better correspondent of yourself, Miss Estlin, & others; — it is not want of inclination which makes him so, he says, & I am sure truly. Though within a month of being 70 years old, he is a great worker. In addition to other things, he is now writing a series of papers for "The Christian Register" of Boston, entitled "Antislavery

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Reminiscences", – which are meeting with much acceptance. Already, over 20 numbers have appeared.

– I hear that Garrison has probably returned to the Continent before this, – & that Mr. Villard (his daughter's father-in-law) is seriously ill. – It occurred to me, on re-reading Mr. Wingate's letter that your "friend in Boston" was very likely W. H. Forbes, and so I have this morning called upon him, – & have found it so; & that he had forwarded to you, through Mr. Wingate, the pair of books, & some 3 or 4 days ago rec'd. a letter from you, acknowledging receipt of same. So, that's all happily cleared up. Mr. Forbes is now in much better health than when I last saw him – rejoices that he broke away from the "old world" life, and put himself to work – and says his business is very good.

– The Address to Garrison, at Edinburgh, from the Ladies' Emancipation Society, was excellent, – I thought superior to any other, in most respects. Please remember me cordially to Alfred, – Let me soon hear from you, – and believe me, Yours truly, Ever

Sam'l. May Jr.

THE Richmond Whig has taken a bold position among those who desire to see "the old Virginia ship float in upon the new tide." It is almost the only journal antedating the rebellion which recognizes the new condition of things, and is disposed to leave the "dead logic of the past with its ghastly abstractions" to those who choose to adhere to the dead or dying parties of the past. It informs its readers and its critics that to co-operate with the republican party is to co-operate with the government. "We have nothing," it says, "either to hope or to fear from the democracy of the north. On the contrary, we have everything to fear from continued war upon 'the party of the Union,' and our only hope is in its favor. It dominates over the whole north, it rules every department of the government, it has the army and the navy, and is marked by every trait that defines supremacy. How is it at the south? It has all the colored population, all the original Union men, and is hourly gaining accretions from the confederate ranks. The instinct of self-preservation is impelling the southern masses to that 'co-operation.' The people have become convinced that they will be utterly ruined without reconstruction, and have resolved to do everything that is necessary to that end" June, 186

ARKANSAS.—A correspondent writing from L Rock gives an encouraging account of affairs in kansas. The work of registration is going forwa a satisfactory manner. General Ord, in the appo ment of registrars, seems to have taken middle gro He has aimed to appoint in each county one ci in sympathy with a majority of the whites, and federal officers, whenever they could be readily fo The work of registration in the State will be pleted by the time prescribed by Congress. It is stated that rebels are generally coming forwa register. The freedmen are modest and prude their action, and manifest a desire to acqu knowledge of their rights and how exercise them. They say they can in office only such as helped them to their pr political status. At Little Rock, the capital o State, the freedmen, under direction of eff teachers, are winning the respect of the "un "structed." Colored schools are flourishing there the improved condition of the race is noticeable. republican party, organized in April last, is ra coming into shape. Its power is felt throughou State already. County organizations are much to place the State in its proper position, a club meetings and local gatherings all classe change views without fear or restraint. July 18

Adv.

Ms. B. 1.6 v.10, p. 48